

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /063 W

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R 061050Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4182

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 466

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJECT: NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST FINANCE MINISTER BANDARANAIKE

REF: 75 COLOMBO 4083

1. OPPOSITION PARTIES IN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 5 INTRODUCED MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN MINISTER
OF FINANCE AND JUSTICE, FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE, COUSIN
OF PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S LATE HUSBAND.
BANDARANAIKE, VERY BRIGHT AND CAPABLE BUT ARROGANT, WOULD
NOT WIN POPULARITY CONTEST IN OWN PRY TO SAY NOTHING OF
OPPOSITION.

2. MOTION, SIGNED BY HEADS OF ALL FOUR OPPOSITION
PARTIES IN ASSEMBLY, ALLEGED THATNBANDARANAIKE HAD
ABUSED HIS POWERS AS MINISTER OF FINANCE BY APPOINTING
SECOND MINISTERIAL SECRETARY NOT PROVIDED FOR IN
CONSITUTION. NEW SECRETARY, MINISTER'S BROTHER-IN-LAW,
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING STATE GEM CORPORATION
WHILE HE HIMSELF IS MEMBER OF PARTNERSHIP
REGISTERED WITH CORPORATION AS GEM DEALER--ANOTHER OFFINSE,
ACCORDING TO MOTION.

3. AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE,HE IS ACCUSED OF
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ATTEMPTING TO FABRICATE EVIDENCE AGAINST UNITED

NATIONAL PARTY LEADER J.R. JAYEWARDENE IN ORDER TO DISQUALIFY HIM FROM ELECTION DURING COLOMBO SOUTH BY-ELECTION JULY 1975.

4. OTHER ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE INCLUDING IMPROPERLY INFLUENCING JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, MISUSING INSIDE INFORMATION, AND MISLEADING ASSEMBLY. NONE OF CHARGES IN MOTION IS PARTICULARLY SHOCKING OR NOVEL LOCALLY. MOST HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY.

5. GOVERNMENT WITH ITS 104 MEMBERS IN 156-MEMBER ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY DEFEATING MOTION AS THEY DEFEATED NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST PRIME MINISTER DECEMBER 23, 1975 (REFTEL). THIS MOTION IS CONTINUATION OF OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN WE DESCRIBED AT THAT TIME TO ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS PM AND HER FAMILY BY PUBLICLY DISPLAYING WHATEVER DIRTY LINEN CAN BE FOUND.

6. REPORTEDLY MOTION IS LIKELY TO BE DEBATED AND VOTED ON FEBRUARY 19.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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